



00684.003179.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masami TSUKAMOTO) : Examiner: K. Brown
Application No.: 09/829,915) : Group Art Unit: 2877
Filed: April 11, 2001) : Confirmation No.: 8192
For: CONTAMINATION PREVENTION) :
IN OPTICAL SYSTEM) : December 23, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SECOND UPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Further to the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 29, 2003, and September 4, 2003, in compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 11-145053 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,630,985 and U.S. patent application publication number 2002/0149753, copies also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 11-224839 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,252,648 and U.S. patent application publication number 2001/0028447, copies also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 2001-284213 corresponds to U.S. patent application publication number 2001/055326, copy also enclosed.

Each of the cited documents was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application. Specifically, these documents were cited in a Japanese Office Action (copy enclosed) dated September 1, 2003, issued by the Japanese Patent Office on September 3, 2003, in a corresponding Japanese patent application (2000-113505). Applicant also encloses a partial English translation of this Office Action.

Japanese patent document numbers 2-250309, 8-45827 and 11-224839 were cited in the above-noted Japanese Office Action.

Japanese patent document number 2-250309 shows, in Figure 1, the use of a hood 2 that covers a projection lens 1. At an upper side wall of the hood 2 is a gas supply port 3 as gas supply means, which introduces a gas, such as nitrogen gas, into the interior 4 of the hood 2 and the projection lens 1 projects a pattern onto a photosensitive material on a workpiece. The interior 4 of the hood 2 is filled with the nitrogen gas. In this manner, the decomposition of the photosensitive material does not enter the interior 4 of the hood 2, so that contamination of the surface of the projection lens 1 is prevented.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this paper. However, should any fee be deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205 for any necessary fees.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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SEW/eab

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ACQ DOCKET NO. 00684.003179		APPLICATION NO. 09/829,915		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		APPLICANT Masami TSUKAMOTO				
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE April 11, 2001		GROUP 2877		
December 23, 2003						
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	US-6,252,648 B1	01/26/2001	Hase et al.	355	53	
	US-6,630,985 B2	10/07/2003	Hase	355	30	
	✓ 2001/0028477 A1	10/11/2001	Ishimoto et al.	358	471	
	✓ 2001/0055326 A1	12/27/2001	Miwa et al.	372	57	
	✓ 2002/0149753 A1	10/17/2003	Hase	355	30	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	✓ 11-195576	07/21/1999	Japan			Partial
	✓ 2001-284213	10/12/2001	Japan			Abstract
	✓ 11-145053	05/28/1999	Japan			Abstract
	✓ 8-45827	02/16/1996	Japan			Partial
	✓ 2-250309	10/08/1990	Japan			Partial
	✓ 10-242029	09/11/1998	Japan			Partial
	✓ 11-224839	08/17/1999	Japan			Partial
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
	✓ Japanese Office Action dated September 1, 2003, and issued on September 3, 2003, in corresponding Japanese patent appln. no. 2000-113505, with partial English translation.					
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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